

# the Gateway

USAFE's Best Small Funded Newspaper for 2003

Vol. 62, No. 5, March 5, 2004, Rhein-Main AB, Germany

## News Briefs

### AF recognition

Congratulations to members of the 726th Air Mobility Squadron, who captured the 2003 Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award in the Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Category. The squadron supported more than 5,800 strategic airlift missions ferrying more than 84,000 tons of cargo and 420,000 combat troops in fiscal year 03.

### Record setters

Congratulations to members of the 726th AMS, who set a new Air Mobility Command record for passengers handled in a single month with 58,334 served in February. The squadron broke the old record of 52,041 set in February 2003 at Rhein-Main.

### AF Portal

Air Force senior leaders have asked that all Airmen sign up for a new Web-based technology that promises to streamline access to information across the force — the Air Force Portal.

In a December information technology initiatives memo, Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche and Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. John Jumper asked that all Airmen sign up for an Air Force Portal account as soon as possible.

Airmen may register for access to the portal by logging onto the Web site at <https://www.my.af.mil> and clicking on the self-registration link. The registration process is self-guided.

Look for more information in the next issue of *the Gateway*.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

## Hand of friendship

*Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing commander, spends some time with Capt. Bernhard Aumann (center) and Oberfähnrich Björn Welz, German Bundeswehr, during her visit to Rhein-Main Tuesday. The general toured several offices and facilities throughout Rhein-Main.*

# Safe and secure year

Story and photo by  
2nd Lt. Uriah Orland  
Public Affairs

For the past year U.S. service members have enjoyed a blanket of security and protection provided by our host nation.

In February 2003 the German Bundeswehr began a partnership with U.S. military forces to guard military installations throughout Germany.

Rhein-Main was one of the first to employ the Bundeswehr and has supported them ever since. In the fall of 2003 the guards switched from German air force to the army, with the 203rd

Panzerbataillon (tank battalion) from Hemer currently supporting the operation.

The Bundeswehr rotates troops every 14 days to ensure they are prepared and rested for duty. "We work 24 hour shifts and they can be stressful," said Capt. Matthias Wendel, 3rd Company commander. "The change out is good because it provides a break in the stress so that we can always have fresh troops at the gates."

Despite the change-outs, the security forces and the German troops enjoy a good working relationship.

See *Germans*, Page 5

# Combat Exit reduces requirements

**By Maj. Rickey Harrington**

USAFE Force Management Branch chief

## **RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany —**

The end of your overseas tour is rapidly approaching and you just found out that you received the assignment you wanted. Your first step is to develop a permanent change of station plan that starts with prioritizing which tasks to do first from your Military Personnel Flight and Commander's Support Staff outprocessing checklists.

At this point, you reflect back on your last move and you begin to cringe at the frustration you felt trying to get everything done in time. You recall how frustrating it was running around base from one agency to the next, like the library or Morale, Welfare and Recreation, just to get your checklist signed off even though you'd never checked out a book or any equipment your entire time on base.

But wait, you remembered reading something about the U.S. Forces in Europe Commander's Combat Exit initiative in the base paper and how the process has been streamlined. You contact the MPF and they explain that due to Combat Exit and the Air Force's Virtual Outprocessing, vOP, initiative, outprocessing is no longer as frustrating or time consuming as it once was. You

are relieved to hear this and thanks to technological advancements, your expectation for outprocessing changes instantly.

In fact, you leave the MPF with the understanding that since outprocessing is "virtual", you can take care of all your outprocessing requirements from your office or work center without ever physically going to any base agencies ... NOT!

Every USAFE base has implemented vOP and made tremendous strides to streamline outprocessing requirements. But "virtual" does not mean that everything can be done from the comfort of home. Through Combat Exit and vOP, those annoying stops to agencies that you've had no interaction with will be accomplished without you physically visiting the agency.

The virtual outprocessing program is simply a database managed by the MPF Relocations Section that allows base agencies to identify only those personnel needed to be seen before leaving the base for a PCS, separation or retirement. The vOP program benefits both the member and the agency by reducing the outprocessing workload.

In fact, we anticipate that the average number of agencies the typical member will visit for outprocessing will drop 60 percent or more. One base has already reported an initial reduction from 30 stops to less than 10.

Although vOP eliminates unnecessary stops, it may not eliminate the requirement to physically go to certain agencies such as the hospital for members going on consecutive overseas tours for physicals, the Transportation Management Office to schedule flight departure and household goods pickup, vehicle deregistration/shipping, chemical gear turn in, or housing, to name a few.

At this point, there's just no getting around visiting some agencies on base to ensure all of your personal affairs are in order prior to moving.

Even though outprocessing is not yet totally "virtual", thanks to Combat Exit and vOP, we've made significant improvements. Furthermore, as you outprocess we ask that you take the time to complete our Combat Exit customer survey and let us know if there are other items we can incorporate into this initiative to enhance the outprocessing experience. If you have questions, contact the commander's support staff at 330-7448 and good luck with your move.

## **Bash brothers**

*Col. Bradley Denison, 469th Air Base Group commander, (seated) gets some operating tips from Master Sgt. Donald Anderson, 469th ABG Civil Engineer Flight, during the destruction of the former concession stand near the fitness center as part of a Combat Proud initiative Feb. 21. Volunteers saved the base several thousand dollars by tearing down the unused facility and an old scoreboard and disposing of the rubble.*



Courtesy photo





Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Cassetty

## Shootin' star

*Tech. Sgt. Marc Lindley, 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight, conducts 9 mm training for Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing commander, during the general's visit to Rhein-Main Tuesday. Most Air Force officers must qualify with the 9 mm every 30 months under recent changes made to Air Force instructions.*

# Hidden Heroes receive recognition

During a visit to Rhein-Main Tuesday, Brig. Gen. Rosanne Bailey, 435th Air Base Wing commander, took time to recognize five members of Team Rhein-Main as Hidden Heroes.

The commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, created the special interest program Hidden Heroes to identify, recognize and encourage members at USAFE bases to serve as volunteers with base and community agencies.



**Captain  
Spencer**



**Mrs.  
Spencer**

The Hidden Heroes recognized by General Bailey included:

■ Capt. Jack and Mindi Spencer, 469th Air Base Group Legal

Office – The couple volunteered more than 120 hours in one month at the USO office. Both interact wonderfully with the troops, according to Celeste Warner Heymann, Terminal Manager of the USO office at Rhein-Main. Mrs. Spencer is also the chairperson the upcoming Olde World Bazaar.

■ Xavier Presley – Mr. Presley teaches cooking classes for the family support center, coaches youth soccer, volunteers at the Halvorsen-Tunner Elementary School and is heavily involved with the



**Mrs.  
Bohl**

base Boy Scout Program. "Rhein-Main is definitely a better place because of the efforts of Mr. Presley," said Carole Beasley, Rhein-Main Family Support Center.

■ Jolene Bohl – Mrs. Bohl has actively participated in the base's Time for Tots program for several years and was involved in the program's move to its new location in Bldg. 627. She spent numerous hours cleaning and painting the facility, to include several cartoon murals. Mrs. Bohl also schedules and conducts meetings for curriculum development and team teaching.

■ Staff Sgt. Bernie Olszewski – Sergeant Olszewski volunteers weekly at the family support center. She helps personnel use video telephone conferencing, sets ups and tears down the center's classroom for various classes and even performs Random Antiterrorism Measures for the facility.

The facility could not maintain extended hours without the assistance of Sergeant Olszewski, according to Tech. Sgt. Thomas Proctor, FSC.

To find out more about the Hidden Heroes program, call the family support center at 330-7992.



**Sergeant  
Olszewski**



# Force protection

## At Rhein-Main it's everyone's responsibility

By Col. Bradley Denison

469th Air Base Group commander

When most people think about force protection they think of the security forces. However, force protection is everyone's concern and should be on all of our minds.

The last week of April Rhein-Main will host a Joint Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (JSIVA), which will inspect our force protection measures. The inspection team will be visiting every organization on base checking everything from evacuation plans to random antiterrorism measures.

In preparation for it and to increase our overall awareness, there are several steps we all need to take.

All service members must ensure they have taken the Antiterrorism/Force Protection Level 1 class within the last year. This class is a great tool to help us remember the things we should do to protect our families and ourselves.

Service members also need to ensure they are current with their Self Aide Buddy Care training. The clinic is offering extra classes to help everyone get current. Contact your unit training advisor to find out if you need either course.

Another step to prepare is to review building evacuation plans. All buildings should practice regular fire drills and practice these evacuation plans in case there is an emergency.

This is very important for the safety of not only those who work in a building but also for those who may be visiting.

If there is an emergency, medical or fire, the emergency number for Gateway Gardens is 699-911. On the main base it is simply 911.

Recently the inspector general team from U.S. Air Forces in Europe conducted an exercise here. They placed a suspicious package on the display case near the front office to judge the response by those who saw it. Several people walked by and didn't even notice it. Finally, the inspectors picked it up and continued with the exercise.

This is not the correct thing to do. Everyone must be alert for things that look out of the ordinary. I call in things all the time that look strange to me. If I see a license plate that looks like it doesn't belong at Rhein-Main, I call it in.

All personnel should be alert to unfamiliar personnel or deliveries. Pay particular attention to packages, boxes or briefcases left in lobbies, restrooms or stairwells. If you notice something out of the ordinary or suspicious, call security forces immediately at 330-7177.

Finally, be aware of your surroundings when traveling. When you go out don't wear "American" clothes. Don't walk around in a Dallas Cowboy's jersey or other clothing that may stand out. Be conscious of who and what is around you. Don't walk down dark streets or go through unfamiliar areas.

*The Action Line is one way for me to keep my finger on the pulse of the Rhein-Main community and is used as an avenue for communication.*

*The main objective of the Commander's Action Line is finding solutions to problems or providing explanations for processes.*

*If you experience problems at Rhein-Main, you should always try to resolve problems at the lowest level by contacting the unit or agency managers. In almost every case, your chain of command is the best solution. I strongly encourage everyone to use that route first. When normal channels haven't been able to resolve your issues, feel free to send an e-mail to [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil) or call 330-7779. Please include your name and contact information along with your concern.*

*Action Lines are forwarded to the appropriate agency for action and response. They should contact you within 24 hours. Once an Action Line is started, the agency must provide a complete answer to me within 10 days.*

*The 469th Air Base Group Public Affairs Office is responsible for managing the Action Line program on my behalf.*

*If you have any questions, call the 469th ABG/PA office at 330-7804 or e-mail at [Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil](mailto:Hotline@rheinmain.af.mil).*

**Col. Bradley Denison**  
Commander, 469th Air Base Group

**330-7779**

The JSIVA is an important inspection. However, the things they look at are things we need to concentrate on every day. If we all take these simple steps and remember to be conscious of our actions, we will all be a little safer.

the  
**Gateway**

### Editorial Staff

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2nd Lt Uriah Orland.....Chief, Public Affairs  
Staff Sgt. Matt Summers.....Editor  
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by deadline does not guarantee publication, however, all articles will be considered. The staff may be reached by calling 330-7804. All photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted.

*The deadline for the March 19 edition of the Gateway is 4 p.m., March 11.*



## Warriors of the Week



Airman 1st Class Stephanie Smith

**Unit:** 726th Air Mobility Squadron  
**Time in service:** 1 year  
**Time at Rhein-Main:** 7 months  
**Duty Title:** Passenger Service Agent  
**Hometown:** Fernandina Beach, Fla.  
**Hobbies:** Fishing and road trips  
**What has been your best AF experience?** Being able to see Europe. I took German in high school, but I never thought I would get to live there.



Staff Sgt. Russell Runyon

**Unit:** 726th Air Mobility Squadron  
**Time in service:** 10.5 years  
**Time at Rhein-Main:** 1 year  
**Duty Title:** NCO in charge of training for the Air Mobility Command Center  
**Hometown:** Watseka, Illinois  
**Hobbies:** Music and computers  
**What has been your best AF experience?** Being able to travel and experience different cultures.

*GERMANS, from Page 1*

"The work here is remarkable," said Capt. Bernhard Aumann, barracks commander. "We work very well with the security forces, especially 1st Lt. Jeff Adams, and the IHS guards. Col. (Bradley) Denison and Lt. Col. (Guy) Parker support us with everything at the gates."

All units assigned to U.S. installations complete a special 14-day guard training in addition to their usual training.

The 203rd Panzerbataillon operates the Leopard 2A6 tank and some noncommissioned officers recently returned from a deployment in Afghanistan where they provided support functions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This has been a good experience for the soldiers because they seldom have the opportunity to work with Americans," said Captain Aumann. "The base is like a small America with the BX and dining facility. It is



*German Bundeswehr troops have been providing security at Rhein-Main for more than a year. The air base was the first Air Force installation in Germany to stand-up the host nation forces.*

great food and it is something the troops treasure. Staff Sgt. (Tony) Jordan and his crew are a real boost for morale."

When asked how long the German troops will be at Rhein-Main, Captain Aumann said, "As long as we have orders to stay here."



## Around the Force

### **USAFE banquet**

Tickets for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Annual Awards Banquet are available for purchase.

The USAFE Annual Awards Banquet will be 6 p.m. April 2 at the Ramstein Air Base Officers' Club. Price of the tickets are \$23 for club members and \$26 for non-members.

The USAFE Annual Awards Banquet honors the command's outstanding Airmen and civilians competing in the categories of Airman, noncommissioned officer, senior NCO, company grade officer, first sergeant of the year and civilian – categories I and II. USAFE leaders will announce the winners from each category during the event.

The deadline for ticket purchase is March 25 and can be purchased from the 469th Air Base Group first sergeant. Guest speaker for the evening will be the Air Force's fifth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Robert D. Gaylor. Both civilians and military members of all ranks are welcome to attend.

### **Reenlistment window**

Air Force personnel officials are changing the reenlistment eligibility window beginning today.

The new policy requires active-duty Airmen to reenlist within three months of their term of service expiring, a change from the 12-month window currently in effect.

Narrowing the window will also assist officials with forecasting requirements for personnel programs such as selective reenlistment bonuses, career job reservations

and retraining, Master Sgt. Maria Cornelia, the Air Force's chief of retention and bonus programs at the Pentagon, said.

Airmen will still be authorized to reenlist earlier than three months from their term of service expiring because of service-related requirements, such as a reassignment and promotion.

Contact the commander's support staff at 330-7448 for more information.

### **Mailing tips**

Personnel can improve mail safety and efficiency by complying with U.S. law which forbids the mailing of all forms of alcohol.

U.S. Customs & Border Protection officials routinely examine parcels mailed from U.S. Air Forces in Europe post offices to ensure they don't contain contraband and hazardous materials. Agents seize and destroy alcohol containers before forwarding the parcel to the addressee.

Mailers may face fines for mailing alcohol. USAFE personnel who wish to send quantities of alcohol to the U.S. should use vendors who specialize in this service. Local Transportation Management/Outbound Personnel Property Offices have a list of available vendors.

For more information about customs rules and procedures, visit the U.S. Customs & Border Protection web site at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).

### **Short supply**

Backorders from the military supply system are affecting the availability of battle dress uniforms in military clothing sales stores. Both Army and Air Force

clothing stores are out of stock on selected sizes of the enhanced hot weather and temperate BDU coats and trousers.

The military supply system advised Army and Air Force Exchange Service officials that the "get-well date" for the temperate BDUs will be August.

### **Sun outages**

AFN customers may experience brief programming interruptions through March 12 as the spring "sun outage" period occurs. This year's spring sun outages will be most severe between today and Saturday.

These seasonal outages, which take place each spring and fall, affect all satellite communications, including the American Forces Network radio and television services distributed by the American Forces Radio and Television Service.

These programming interruptions are characterized by a complete loss of signal for several seconds to even 10 or 20 minutes. They occur when the sun's position aligns with broadcast satellites and Earth station receivers. The sun's radiation overpowers the broadcast signal causing this disruption of service.

The effect of sun outages on satellite programming received at the AFRTS Broadcast Center at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., will be minimal because alternate satellite feeds can be used in the event of a sun outage.

However, the AFRTS satellite signals distributed to regional and local AFN affiliates may experience more significant outages due to their reliance on the single AFRTS satellite feed.

## Court convicts airman of drug use

Senior Airman Andrew P.L. Rouleau, 469th Air Base Group, was convicted of wrongful use of cocaine during a special court-martial held Nov. 20, 2003 at Rhein-Main Air Base.

His use of cocaine was detected by a random urinalysis. A

panel of officer and enlisted members sentenced Airman Rouleau to reduction to E-1, confinement for 60 days, forfeitures of \$400 per month for two months, and a bad conduct discharge.

(Courtesy of 469th ABG Legal Office)



Courtesy photo

## Welcome to the world

*Chief Master Sgt. Bobby Gamsby, 726th Air Mobility Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Cathryn Gamsby, 469th Air Base Group, are proud to announce the birth of Garrett Logan Gamsby (right). Garrett was born at 2:52 a.m. Feb. 19 and weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces. 1st Lt. Eric McGreevy, 726th AMS, and his wife, Laura, are proud to announce the arrival of Eric John McGreevy II (left). Eric was born Feb. 17 and weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces.*

## Rhein-Main Force Protection— Your life depends on it

The following force protection tips are designed to raise the level of situational awareness for all members of the Rhein-Main community:

- Impress upon all employees to be alert to unfamiliar personnel or deliveries. Pay particular attention to packages “left,” boxes or briefcases in lobbies, rest rooms, stairwells or coffee shops.

- If you have a fenced-in facility, ensure the fence is in good repair, gates locked and the fence line is not overgrown with brush, weeds or grass.

- A clean, neat, uncluttered, businesslike appearance of a building sends terrorist a “message” the people inside are not negligent, careless or sloppy. Terrorists prefer to attack unprotected and unconcerned targets – don’t give the appearance of being one.

*(Information provided courtesy of 469th Air Base Group Security Forces Flight)*



## Closure Corner

This section is devoted to giving the Rhein-Main Community the most up-to-date information concerning base closure issues. All dates presented in this section are subject to change based on: manpower figures, personnel assignment information and ongoing U.S. Air Forces in Europe coordination.

### Chapel

**Q:** *What can I expect in the way of chapel activities as base closure nears?*

**A:** Although subject to change, Sunday school and Catholic religious education classes are scheduled to end in May 2005. Youth/Adult programs will also cease in May 2005. There will be no Vacation Bible School in the summer of 2005.

Father (Maj.) Kevin Cody departs in July 2005, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dennis Kitterman departs in September 2005. Local clergy and chaplains from U.S. Air Forces in Europe may be employed to provide services as needed until closure. In the August/September timeframe an industrial model ministry will go into effect.

The chapel sanctuary will close in August 2005 and an alternative location will be designated for chapel worship services. *(Subject to the re-*

*moval of windows in the sanctuary.)*

**Q:** When will the chapel window be removed?

**A:** Currently, the window is scheduled to be removed in the summer or fall of 2005. A Plexiglas window may replace it if the chapel continues to be used.

### Civil Engineers

**Q:** What is the plan for base housing during the drawdown?

**A:** Base housing will be closed by attrition, stairwell by stairwell, and then entire buildings. The buildings will be safe, sanitary and secured. All housing units will be vacated by Oct. 1, 2005.

**Q:** What’s the reason behind this?

**A:** The reason is to effectively vacate all government quarters and have them ready to execute the turnover process to the German government in an expeditious manner.





Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Summers

## Math wiz

*Courtney Nichols, an 8th grader at Halvorsen-Tunner Middle School, answers a question during the Countdown Round at the 2004 Heidelberg District Chapter MATHCOUNTS competition Feb. 20 at Rhein-Main. Nichols placed third in the round and fourth overall in the individual competition. Teams from Giessen, Darmstadt, Heidelberg and Wiesbaden also competed. MATHCOUNTS is a national coaching and competition program designed to stimulate 6th through 8th grade students' interest in mathematics. Members of the second place team from Halvorsen-Tunner, coached by William Hatchett, included Patrick Barrenechea, Nichols, Ashley Polhemus and Nick Yokum. Misha Deguia, Edward and Mark Garces and Chelsea Green also competed for Halvorsen-Tunner.*

# Air Force Assistance Fund under way

**RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas** — The Air Force Assistance Fund "Commitment to Caring" campaign runs from Monday through April 18 and asks airmen to contribute to any of four Air Force-related charities.

The charities benefit active-duty, Reserve, Guard, retired Air Force people, surviving spouses and families. This is the 31st year of the fund drive. Charities receive 100 percent of designated contributions.

"Requests for assistance have continued at record levels since Sept. 11, 2001," said retired Lt. Gen. Mike McGinty, Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer. "Last year the Air Force Aid Society helped 30,000 airmen with (more than) \$22.6 million in assistance. That's a lot of help. Contributions are vital for the society to sustain this kind of help. It is truly an Airmen-helping-Airmen program."

The secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force recently announced a \$5.2 million goal. In 2003, Air Force people gave \$5.9 million to the fund.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction to:

- The Air Force Aid Society, the official charitable organization of the Air Force which provides Airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance, educa-

tion assistance and an array of base level community-enhancement programs. Base family support centers have full details on programs and eligibility requirements. Information is also available online at [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org).

- The Air Force Enlisted Villages in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., near Eglin Air Force Base, which provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired enlisted people 55 and older. More information is available at

[www.afenlistedwidows.org](http://www.afenlistedwidows.org).

- The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, a life-care community in San Antonio for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and family members. The Air Force Village Web site is [www.airforcevillages.com](http://www.airforcevillages.com).

- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, which provides rent

and financial assistance to indigent widows and widowers of officers and enlisted people in their own homes and communities. The LeMay Foundation Web site is [www.lemayfoundation.org](http://www.lemayfoundation.org).

Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible.

For more information, visit <http://afassistancefund.org> or the Air Force Personnel Center's voting and fund-raising Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund).

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

## Rhein-Main POC

2nd Lt. Uriah Orland is the Rhein-Main point-of-contact for this year's AFAF campaign.

For more information, contact Lieutenant Orland.

# Suicide prevention

*Air Force leaders call for re-energized efforts at all levels*

**By G.W. Pomeroy**

Air Force Surgeon General Public Affairs

**WASHINGTON** — After 11 active-duty suicides since Jan. 1 and 14 during the final quarter of 2003, Air Force senior leaders are asking commanders and leaders across the service to assess and re-energize suicide prevention efforts at all levels.

The 2003 calendar-year suicide rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people was the lowest of all the military services and one-half the rate of a comparable civilian population of males between the ages of 20 and 50. As of Feb. 24, the service's suicide rate was 18.1.

In a letter sent to all major commands, the Air Force's acting assistant vice chief of staff urges all Airmen to continue pitching in to reduce the number of suicides.

"Suicide is not stopped by medical personnel in emergency rooms; it is stopped by addressing quality-of-life issues in the unit on a daily basis," Lt. Gen. Richard E. Brown III wrote in the letter.

"The major components of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program are active leadership involvement, an emphasis on community involvement and a focus on prevention throughout the life of Airmen and their families, not just when they are suicidal," General Brown wrote.

"Pay special attention to the quality of your suicide-prevention briefings," General Brown wrote.

The Air Force requires active-duty and

civilian personnel to attend suicide-prevention briefings once during the 15-month air and space expeditionary force cycle.

In light of the recent suicides — none of which occurred during operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom — General Brown urged commanders to "review how well we continue to implement the 11 initiatives that serve as the foundation of the Air Force Suicide Prevention Program."

The 11 initiatives are outlined in Air Force Pamphlet 44-160, "Air Force Suicide Prevention Program: Description of Program Initiatives and Outcomes."

The 11 initiatives are:

- build community awareness;
- leadership involvement;
- investigative interview policy;
- professional military education;
- epidemiological database;
- delivery of community preventive services;
- community education and training;
- critical incident stress management;
- integrated delivery system;
- limited patient-psychotherapist privilege;
- unit risk-factor assessment.

Air Force leaders take a community approach in suicide prevention, encouraging every Airman to take responsibility in reducing the number of suicides.

A key element of the program is to make a steady pipeline of suicide-prevention tools available for Air Force people at all levels. So far in 2004, the Air Force Medical Ser-

## Training required

Suicide Prevention and Violence in the Workplace training is no longer available on-line for active duty, Air National Guard or Reserve Airmen, government service civilians and contractors.

The training is required annually at Rhein-Main and the point-of-contact is Staff Sgt. Claudia Van Hassel, 469th Air Base Group NCO in charge of Life Skills, at 330-4211. The training is highly encouraged for local national civilians.

vice has issued the 2004 Leader's Guide for Managing Personnel in Distress, which is geared to help commanders, first sergeants and other leaders recognize when their people are distressed and learn how to respond appropriately. It helps commanders link their people to resources and get them help as soon as possible.

The guide presents information on 35 distressing situations, checklists detailing potential behaviors or signs reflective of a person's reaction to the distressing event, and responses or resources leaders may want to use in responding to a person's needs.

The guide was distributed on CD-ROM to every squadron commander and first sergeant in the Air Force.

The guide can be viewed on the dot-mil-restricted Air Force Suicide Prevention Program Web site, <https://www.afms.mil/afspp>.

## DUI Tracker

**Days without DUIs (As of Tuesday)**



### 469th Air Base Group

No DUIs in 2004

### 726th Air Mobility Squadron

36 days

### 64th Replacement Company

No DUIs in 2004

### Tenant Units

No DUIs in 2004

### Others

49 days

The 469th ABG Top IV provides a

fund at the main gate for permanent party personnel who take a taxi back to the base instead of driving while intoxicated.

The money used must be reimbursed the next duty day.



## Rhein-Main Fitness Challenge



*Photos  
by  
Staff Sgt.  
Matt  
Summers*

**Team awards:**

1st place - 469th ABG Fire Department (photo at right)  
2nd place - 469th ABG Security Forces "A" Flight  
3rd place - 64th Replacement Company Headquarters

**Individual honors:**

Rowing (1,000-meters) - Kevin Smith, 469th ABG SF  
Pull-ups - Joseph Moos, 469th ABG SF (16)  
Sit-ups (1 minute) - Rob Harrington, 469th ABG Services Flight (63)  
Push-ups (1 minute) - Timothy Bolon, 469th ABG (58)  
Run (1 mile) - Matthew Hansen, 469th ABG Clinic



*Eight five-member teams (to include at least one female) from around Rhein-Main competed in the first fitness challenge Feb. 27 at the fitness center. (Clockwise from above) Ray Rabatin, 469th Air Base Group Logistics Flight and Tanesia Lyles, 64th Replacement Company, give a gut-check performance. Matthew Orlowsky, 469th ABG Services Flight rows, rows, rows his boat home in the 1,000-meter rowing competition. Matthew Hansen, 469th ABG clinic legs home a victory in the one-mile run. Jeffery Willis, pumps out "Army-style" push-ups. (Center) Joseph Moos, 469th ABG Security Forces Flight, takes a victory by the hair of his chinny, chin chin.*



## Live music

Robert Cotton and Friends hit the stage from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday at the Rocket Sports Lounge.

The group specializes in contemporary blues and classic rock.

## German culture

The family support center offers a German culture class from 7 - 9 p.m. Tuesday in the FSC classroom in Bldg. 347.

Robert Emmerth presents the third in a six-week series of classes covering history, politics, transportation, culture and more. Participants can attend one session or all of the remaining sessions. There's also a culture trip scheduled for the end of the series.

Call 330/699-7992 for more information or to sign up.

## Weight loss

The family support center sponsors a class on how to lose weight safely and successfully with support from peers. The first meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Thursday at "Our House."

The grand prize for the most pounds lost will be a relaxing trip to a spa in May.

## Chapel Worship

The following worship opportunities are offered by the Rhein-Main Chapel:

### ■ Catholic worship:

Sunday Mass takes place at 9 a.m. every Sunday. CCD classes are offered every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Daily Masses are offered Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Penance - 8-8:30 a.m. Sunday or by appointment

### ■ Protestant worship:

Sunday School is offered every Sunday at 9 a.m.

Worship and Kids Own Church take place every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

For more information please call the chapel at 330-7501.

## CAIB meeting

A community action information board meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday in the conference room of Bldg. 347.

Community members can e-mail or call in issues to Wanda Pohlman or Judith Maughan at the family support center.

## Lunch and learn

The family support center offers a Lunch and Learn German Language class from noon to 1 p.m. each Monday at "Our House."

Call 330/699-7992 for more details.

## Country dancing

Admission is free for club members to country dancing at the Zeppelinhaus from 7 to 11 p.m. March 13. DJ "Nite Life" will spin favorite country tunes.

## Casino Night

The 469th Air Base Group Services Flight sponsors "Casino Night" at 7 p.m. March 20 at the Zeppelinhaus.

Admission is free for Air Force Club Card members and \$5 for nonmembers. Participants can gamble with 250 "Zeppelinhaus Dollars" at poker and black jack tables, a roulette wheel and craps pit.

Players can use their winnings during the auction for prizes at the end of the night.

## St. Patrick's Day

The Rocket Bowling Center and the Rocket Sports Lounge will be wearing green March 17 in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

Families dressed in green can bowl for \$1 with free shows from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Bowlers can also enjoy green beverages.

The sports lounge is open from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.

## Time for Tots

Time for Tots is a free, parent-run play group for kids five and under. It is a great way to have your child interact with others, and it is a great way to meet other parents.

New groups are now forming.

Call 330-7992 to find out spring group times.

## Movies at Rhein-Main

**Tonight** - "Something's Gotta Give," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Saturday** - "The Big Bounce," (PG-13), 5 p.m., and "Mona Lisa Smile," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday** - "Paycheck," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** - "Welcome to Mooseport," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**March 12** - "Master and Commander," (PG-13), 7 p.m.

**March 13** - "Cheaper By the Dozen," (PG), 5 p.m. and "Barbershop: Back in Business," (PG-13), 7:30 p.m.

**March 14** - "Peter Pan," (PG), 7 p.m.

**March 17** - "Twisted," (R), 7 p.m.

Movies and times are subject to change.

Movie schedules for local communities can be found at

[www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp)

## Volunteers needed

The annual Rhein-Main Bazaar is set for May 14-16.

Organizers are currently looking for volunteers to help set up what could be the finale for this long-standing event.

For more information, call 6500-6670 or 330-8084.

## Free bowling

Dorm residents can show their dorm key and bowl for free (shoes included) from 4 to 10 p.m. each Thursday at the Rocket Bowling Center.

All other customers can bowl three games for \$4, including shoes.

## Library news

A base library orientation is scheduled for 2 p.m. March 17.

The library hosts story hour from 3 - 4 p.m. March 19 for ages 3 - 6, pre-registration required. Time for Reading takes place from 1:30 to 2 p.m. each Thursday. Parents must remain in the library during Time for Reading.

Library hours are: noon to 7 p.m. Tuesdays - Fridays and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Call 330-6494 for more information.

*Ties that bind*

# German volunteer brings cultures together

**Story and photo by**  
**Staff Sgt. Matt Summers**  
Editor

Ever wonder what Germans think of Americans? Or whether or not the stereotypes about Germans are true? How about the cheapest way to see Berlin or Munich?

These are just a few of the questions a long-time volunteer at the Rhein-Main Family Support Center can help answer.

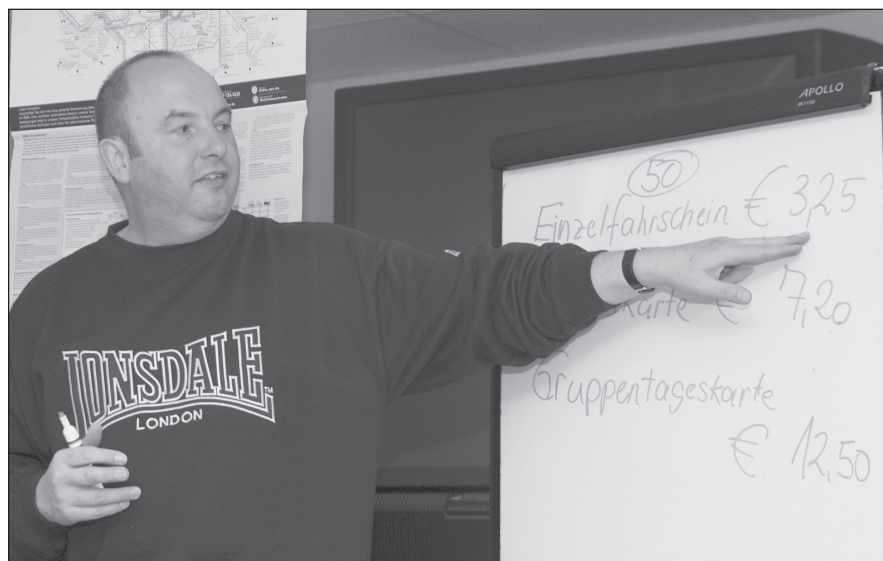
Robert Emmerth, a native of Bad Kissigen in the state of Bavaria, has been bridging the gap between German and American cultures for 17 years in his role as a German Culture teacher for the family support center.

Mr. Emmerth, who was recently recognized by the state of Hesse with a medal of appreciation for his volunteer role at Rhein-Main, began his tenure at the base after hearing a request for volunteers on a German radio station.

"There was a radio program asking people what they thought about Americans," he said. "They asked for volunteers to help the American forces learn more about Germany and Germans."

Mr. Emmerth, a stockbroker by trade, began volunteering at the recreation center formally located across the autobahn from the main gate. After four years there, he moved to the family support center where he's been ever since.

He teaches three or four six-week



**Robert Emmerth, family support center volunteer, explains the different fees for public transportation in the Frankfurt area.**

classes each year, touching on topics ranging from stereotypes and public transportation to wine and beer.

"When I started, I taught a class about German history," he said. "But there's only so much you can cover in a two-hour class period."

Over time he tailored his classes to mirror what students were most interested in learning. He said in years past there were more single people on the base and he helped many of them assimilate into the local communities by taking trips introducing them to German friends.

Although class sizes have continued to shrink since the base drawdown in the

mid 1990s, Emmerth says it's the people who provide him the incentive to continue.

"I like meeting people and helping people," he said. "Sometimes I feel more like an American than a German because of all the time I've spent around Americans."

Students can attend any one or all of the class in the six-part series. The third class in the current series is set for 7 - 9:30 p.m. Tuesday in the family support center classroom in Bldg. 347. The topic will be "German wine and beer."

For more information, call the FSC at 330-7992.



## **Get up and get out with USO tours**

■ Paris Express – March 19-21; Depart Rhein-Main 11:15 p.m., return approx. 2 a.m.; Price – \$111 for adults, \$99 for children 3-11 (under 3 free); Sign-up by March 14.

■ Wuerzburg by Train – March 20; Depart 7:15 a.m. from Wiesbaden Main Train Station, return approx.

10:30 p.m.; Price – \$41. Sign-up by March 19.

■ Black Forest Shopping and Triberg – March 21; Depart Rhein-Main 5:30 a.m., return approx. 9 p.m.; Price – \$43 adults, \$33 for children 3-11 (under 3 free); Sign-up by March 21.

■ Rhein River Cruises – March 21 and 28; Depart Rhein-Main 1:15 p.m., return approx. 10:30 p.m.; Price 59 Euros adults, children's prices vary. Sign-up deadline is three days prior to trips.

For more details, call the Rhein-Main USO at 330-6424.